

GARY D. GOCHIE,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
vs.)
)
FNU CHESTER, et al.,)
)
Defendant.)
)

ORDER

In support of the motion to appoint counsel, Plaintiff states, among other things, that the issues involved in his case are complex and will require significant research and investigation. Plaintiff states he has no access to a law library and limited knowledge of the law. Plaintiff also argues that a trial would likely involve conflicting testimony, and counsel would allow Plaintiff to better present evidence and cross examine witnesses. A plaintiff must present “exceptional circumstances” in order to require the Court to seek the assistance of a private attorney for a plaintiff who is unable to afford counsel. Miller v. Simmons, 814 F.2d 962, 966 (4th Cir. 1987). The Plaintiff here has not presented exceptional circumstances that justify appointment of counsel. Therefore, Plaintiff’s motion to appoint counsel will be denied.


Further, in reviewing the docket in relation to Plaintiff's motion for copies, the Court notes that Plaintiff has filed a discovery request with the Court [Doc. 6-1]. First, discovery in this matter

is premature, as no Pretrial Order and Case Management Plan has been entered by the Court. Second, at the appropriate time, discovery requests shall only be served on the opposing party, not be filed with the Court. Plaintiff is cautioned against serving discovery requests prematurely and against filing discovery requests with the Court in the future.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

- (1) Plaintiff's Motion to Appoint Counsel [Doc. 3] is **DENIED**.
- (2) Plaintiff's Motion for Copies [Doc. 4] is **GRANTED** and the Clerk is respectfully instructed to send Plaintiff copies of his Complaint and the attachments thereto [Docs. 1 and 1-1 through 1-6].

Signed: July 12, 2019


Frank D. Whitney
Chief United States District Judge

